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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 3183, June 7

SENT DEPARTMENT; REPEATED BRUSSELS BY POUCH.

British press reported factually on Belgian June 4 election. Both TIMES and GUARDIAN editorially pointed out that royal question cannot be satisfactorily solved on basis of slight majority. TIMES editorial read in part as follows:

"Leaders of Christian Social Party are now in a dilemna. They have power to form single-party government and bring back King, but question royale cannot be settled satisfactorily by handful of votes. Unless constitutional monarchy is upheld by wishes of great majority of people, it is bound to be a disturbing rather than a unifying influence.

"Belgian people have been asked, in effect, whether they wished King to return. Twice they have shown that if he returns, there will still be deep divisions among them. The national dispute over the King has accentuated divisions, racial, religious, and economic, between Flemings and Walloons, clerical and anti-clerical, bourgeois and working class."

"Spaak, speaking for Socialists, has already pointed to Socialist victories in Walloon provinces and in Brussels itself, and has urged conciliation, but it is hard to see how a compromise can be reached."

GUARDIAN concluded as follows:

"If Leopold returns, he will still be associated with one party, one religion, and one national group. That, not a technical matter of two seats more or less, is the essence of the problem. Royal questions are not settled by bare majorities."

DM:MW

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